

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY of**  
**EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,**  
**PECO ENERGY COMPANY,**  
**the AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION,**  
**the NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**  
**and**  
**the NATIONAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION**  
**On H.R. 363,**  
**To Amend SECTION 2118 of the ENERGY POLICY ACT of 1992**  
**to Extend the ELECTRIC and MAGNETIC FIELDS**  
**RESEARCH and PUBLIC INFORMATION DISSEMINATION Program,**  
**PRESENTED by CHARLES J. BOEGGEMAN, PE,**  
**SENIOR ENGINEER, PECO ENERGY COMPANY,**  
**Before the**  
**UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**  
**COMMITTEE on COMMERCE,**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE on ENERGY and POWER**  
**2:00 p.m., FEBRUARY 26, 1997**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. I am Charles J. Boeggeman, PE, Senior Engineer, Power Delivery, PECO Energy Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am also chair of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Electric

and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Task Force. The EEI EMF Task Force assists the members of EEI – as well as other electric utilities and utility associations in this country and around the world – to address matters related to the issue of potential human health effects resulting from exposure to EMF.

I am here today on behalf of PECO Energy Company, EEI, the American Public Power Association (APPA), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the National Equipment Manufacturers Association (NEMA). On their behalf, I urge the Congress to provide for one additional year of funding authorization for the national EMF Research and Public Information Dissemination Program (the RAPID Program). Such an extension will ensure that the RAPID Program is authorized for a full five years, as originally intended by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct, Section 2118), and that the program is successfully completed.

RAPID is a coordinated federal program to research possible human health effects resulting from exposure to EMF, and to disseminate credible information on what is known about such health effects. The research has been carried out through the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, under the direction of both an Interagency Committee and an Advisory Committee involving all interested stakeholders.

RAPID was designed as a five-year program to achieve specific results. In the 1980's, utilities, the Congress and federal agencies were faced with ongoing public concern about the possibility of adverse health effects resulting from exposure to EMF, notwithstanding considerable research, including research by the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense, and by the industry-supported Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Continuing public concern, and the fact that federal agencies were

distributing conflicting and sometimes erroneous information, prompted the Congress to agree to fund RAPID – for a specific, limited period of time – as an effort to comprehensively and reliably look into the issue.

The principal objectives of the RAPID Program were to (1) carry out new, coordinated research under leadership that could achieve the kind of credibility with all stakeholders that previous research had not yet achieved, and (2) establish a process of coordination and consultation that would enable federal agencies to speak with one voice when communicating with the public on the issue of possible EMF health effects. In order to summarize the results of the first goal, and support the second goal, RAPID was also designed to culminate in a risk assessment and report to the Congress. This assessment and report would then form the basis for any needed future federal decision-making.

RAPID has made substantial progress towards achieving these objectives, but they are now about to be jeopardized by the mismatch between the federal government's spending authorization and budget appropriations cycles. RAPID was authorized as Section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and was ostensibly to begin in 1993. However, the Act became law after the appropriations cycle for what would have been the first year of the program had already been completed. Thus, the first year of funding for the program was fiscal year 1994.

RAPID, therefore, is scheduled to sunset at the end of what is actually only the fourth year of the program. As a consequence, and without an extension of the program by the Congress, RAPID will end a year early. Without the program's fifth year, it would be very difficult, and not at all likely, that the Congress's original objectives can be achieved.

First, a one-year extension would ensure that the RAPID assessment and report is complete and up-to-date. Without the extension, the assessment and the report to the Congress would have to be completed without all of the data to be produced by EMF research under RAPID and other projects. The RAPID Program's EMF research will be completed in mid-1997 — too late to be included in the final assessment and report if the program authorities expire at the end of calendar year 1997 as now scheduled.

Furthermore, there are some additional non-RAPID research studies – in particular, an epidemiological study by the National Cancer Institute – that are likely to be included in the RAPID assessment and report if it is drafted in 1998. Inclusion of all such studies – both RAPID and non-RAPID – will be made possible only by granting the one-year extension. Their inclusion will immeasurably increase the value of the RAPID assessment.

Second, without the extension, the public process – designed in part for the assessment phase – would have to be abandoned in order to meet the present deadline. The resulting closed process could adversely affect the credibility of the RAPID results with the public. Up to now, the public has been actively involved in oversight of the program. See Attachment 1, letter of Advisory Committee Chairperson. In general, the RAPID Program has been seen as a credible process. For example, we understand that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is currently considering a resolution in support of the effort to extend RAPID through to its fifth year. In fact, yesterday NARUC's Electricity Committee unanimously adopted that resolution.

The cost of implementing the RAPID Program has been far less than originally planned, and half of RAPID's funding has come from voluntary, non-federal matching donations. It is projected that a full five-year RAPID Program will cost about one-third less

than the amount originally authorized — \$46 million rather than \$65 million. Further, as of FY 1996, \$14 million of the RAPID Program's funding has come from non-federal matching contributions from all sectors of the electric utility industry, from electrical equipment manufacturers, and from the realty industry.

This amount will rise to almost \$19 million through fiscal year (FY) 1997. Additional non-federal matching contributions will be impossible to obtain if federal authorization for the co-funded RAPID Program is not extended. If that extension is obtained, however, matching contributions will rise to \$23 million through FY 1998.

In summary, the organizations for which I appear today have long supported the concepts behind the RAPID Program, and they remain committed to RAPID's successful completion. We believe that RAPID must be allowed to be completed as a full five-year program, as originally intended and planned, in order to satisfy the public's legitimate interest in the issue of possible human health effects from exposure to EMF. We support H.R. 363, understanding that it is to be amended to reflect a one-year extension of RAPID through the end of calendar year 1998.

Mr. Chairman, EEI and the other organizations I represent here today wish to especially thank Representative Towns for his leadership in seeing that this matter was considered. We also thank you for this opportunity to present our views. We look forward to working with you in the ongoing legislative process.

Attachment

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PECO Energy Company, Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the American Public Power Association (APPA), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the National Equipment Manufacturers Association (NEMA), urge the Congress to provide for one additional year of funding authorization for the national EMF Research and Public Information Dissemination Program (the RAPID Program) to ensure that the RAPID Program is authorized for a full five years, as originally intended by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAc, Section 2118), and that the program is successfully completed. The principal objectives of the RAPID Program were to (1) carry out new, coordinated research under leadership that could achieve the kind of credibility with all stakeholders that previous research had not yet achieved, and (2) establish a process of coordination and consultation that would enable federal agencies to speak with one voice when communicating with the public on the issue of possible EMF health effects.

RAPID was authorized to begin in 1993. However, EPAc became law after the appropriations cycle for what would have been the first year of the program had already been completed. Thus, the first year of funding for the program was fiscal year 1994. RAPID, therefore, is scheduled to sunset at the end of what is actually only the fourth year of the program, before it has successfully completed all of its objectives.

A one-year extension would ensure that the final RAPID assessment and report is complete and up-to-date. Also, without the extension, public participation would have to be abandoned, which could adversely affect public credibility of the RAPID results. Further, the cost of implementing RAPID has been far less than planned, and half of the funding has come from non-federal donations. Additional non-federal matching contributions will be impossible to obtain if authorization for RAPID is not extended.

For all of these reasons, we support H.R. 363, understanding that it is to be amended to reflect a one-year extension of RAPID through the end of calendar year 1998.